

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11 SCEM-02 SCI-06 TRSE-00

OMB-01 COME-00 INT-08 AF-10 NEA-10 DRC-01 (ISO) W
----- 121487

R 130915Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5218

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EI

SUBJ: IRISH FUEL SITUATION - ROUNDUP

REF: DUBLIN 1601 AND PREVIOUS

1. FUEL SUPPLY SITUATION CONTINUES TO DOMINATE IRISH HEADLINES (INTERRUPTED BRIEFLY BY SUNNINGDALE TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE.) PANIC GASOLINE BUYING HAS EBBED SOMEWHAT; SALES INCREASED BY 34 PERCENT IN OCTOBER 1973 COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1972 AND SIMILAR SHARP INCREASE WAS PROBABLY RECORDED IN NOVEMBER.

2. DUBLIN NEWSPAPERS REPORT MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT
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AND POWER BARRY TOLD DAIL DECEMBER 11 HE HAD BEEN

INFORMED BY OIL COMPANIES THAT SUPPLIES WOULD BE DOWN BY UP TO 30 PERCENT OF CURRENT REQUIREMENTS BEGINNING JANUARY 1. BARRY SAID STOCKS WERE DOWN FROM 65-DAY LEVEL AT BEGINNING OF OIL CRISIS, BUT DOWNWARD TREND HAD BEEN ARRESTED BY INTRODUCTION OF RESTRICTIONS ON DELIVERIES. ELECTRICITY SUPPLY BOARD HAD 70 DAYS STOCK, BUT PROSPECTS FOR FUTURE SUPPLY UNCERTAIN. BARRY SAID GASOLINE RATIONING WAS NOT YET NECESSARY, THOUGH APPLICATION FORMS FOR COUPONS ARE NOW BEING ISSUED THROUGH POST OFFICES AND STOCK SITUATION IN ALL CATEGORIES BEING CLOSELY MONITORED. IF SITUATION DETERIORATES, FURTHER RESTRICTIONS WILL BE INTRODUCED, WITH PRIORITIES TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES SUCH AS PUBLIC TRANSPORT, PRODUCTION OF FOOD AND OTHER ESSENTIAL GOODS, AND MAINTENANCE OF INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL EMPLOYMENT.

3. DEPT OF TRANSPORT AND POWER OFFICIAL TOLD ECON/COMM-OFF GENERAL SUPPLY SITUATION FOR ALL CATEGORIES OF PETROLEUM RUNNING BETWEEN 50 AND 60 DAYS. AVIATION JET FUEL SUPPLY (ALL IMPORTED) CONSIDERED "TIGHT." ESSO OFFICIAL CONFIRMED 50-60 DAY RESERVE SITUATION.

4. DECEMBER 5, MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE KEATING ANNOUNCED RELAXATION OF PRICE CONTROL REGULATIONS ON ALL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS. NOW OIL COMPANIES NEED ONLY GIVE 7 DAYS NOTICE OF PROPOSED PRICE CHANGES (INSTEAD OF PREVIOUS 2 MONTHS NOTICE). PRICES COMMISSION INTENDS LINK IRISH PRICES TO PRICES CHARGED IN "OUTER ZONE" OF UNITED KINGDOM INSOFAR AS POSSIBLE. ESSO OFFICIAL TOLD ECON/COMMOFF THAT BRITISH PRICE RISES ANNOUNCED DECEMBER 11. EXPECTED TRIGGER IMMEDIATE RISE IN IRISH PRICES.

5. PRICES COMMISSION REPORT OF DEC 5 GAVE FOLLOW BREAKDOWN OF IRISH ENERGY SOURCE FOR 1972:

COAL - 9 PERCENT
OIL - 69 PERCENT
TURF (SOD) - 10 PERCENT
TURF (MILLED) - 7 PERCENT
WATER (HYDRO-ELECTRICITY) - 5 PERCENT
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OIL SHARE HAS STEADILY INCREASED OVER YEARS. WHITEGATE REFINERY, OWNED BY ESSO, SHELL AND TEXACO DRAWS CRUDE OIL FROM KUWAIT, IRAN, AND SAUDI ARABIA IN 3:1:- RATIO. REFINERY PRODUCTS ONE-THIRD OF FUEL OIL, AND TWO-THIRDS OF GAS DIESEL AND GASOLINE CONSUMED IN IRELAND. REMAINING FINISHED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS IMPORTED MAINLY FROM UK, ALTHOUGH PART OF ELECTRICITY BOARD'S FUEL

OIL COMES FROM USSR.

6. CONFEDERATION OF IRISH INDUSTRY (CII) REPORT DATED
DECEMBER 4 (RECEIVED BY EMBASSY DEC 11) INDICATES
EFFECTIVE REDUCTION IN OIL SUPPLIES VERSUS CURRENT DEMAND
AS FOLLOWS:

INDUSTRY: RAW MATERIAL - 0 PERCENT
INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE:
TRANSPORT - 27 PERCENT
HEATING - 20 PERCENT
DOMESTIC OIL HEATING - 20 PERCENT
RETAIL TRANSPORT FUEL - 36 PERCENT
ELECTRICITY, GAS MANUFACTURING
PUBLIC TRANSPORT, ETC. - 0 PERCENT

CII SAID SUPPLY SITUATION VARIED SIGNIFICANTLY BETWEEN
CATEGORIES; FOR EXAMPLE, SURVEY INDICATED STOCKS OF GAS
DIESEL OIL FOR TRANSPORT AVERAGED ONLY 13 DAYS ON NOVEMBER
30. CITING DANGERS TO PRODUCTION AND EMPLOYMENT FROM
SHORT SUPPLIES, CII RECOMMENDED:

A) PRIORITY FOR USE OF GAS DIESEL OIL FOR
INDUSTRIAL PROCESSING AND INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORT
B) REDUCTIONS IN PRIVATE ELECTRICITY AND GAS USE.
C) DRIVE BY FIRMS TO MINIMIZE ENERGY CONSUMPTION.
D) GASOLINE RATIONING.
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